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ARGENTINA

B 1

HARGUINDEGUY PREDICTS CONTINUED MILITARY ROLE

PY152120Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 15 Sep 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpt] The armed forces will continue to play a role in government when a return to democratic rule takes place, the minister of interior, General Albano Harguindeguy, announced yesterday.

"The process of national reorganization has decided on the institutionalized presence, when the time comes, of the armed forces in government," Harguindeguy said in a speech at a lunch organized by IDEA (Institute for the Development of Argentine Executives).

Harguindeguy did not elaborate on the announcement during his speech, although he later told reporters that the armed forces participation in government could take the shape of a "national defence council" made up of the president, the commanders-in-chief of the three armed forces and the ministers of foreign affairs and of the interior.

Only the council will be empowered to carry through constitutional reforms and declare war on other countries, the minister said.

LAMBRUSCHINI SWORN IN AS JUNTA MEMBER

PY161411Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Sep 78 PY

[Text] In a ceremony held at the National Congress yesterday Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Armando Lambruschini was sworn in as a member of the military junta.

During the ceremony the other members of the military junta were on the platform--Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, and Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, together with Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera and President Jorge Rafael Videla.

The senior officers of the armed forces also attended the ceremony, as well as the chief of military industries, the Argentine representative to the Inter-American Defense Board and other high-ranking military authorities, the head of the Supreme Court, the Argentine cardinal primate, ministers of the National Executive Board, the Buenos Aires mayor, the dean of the diplomatic corps, high-ranking officers of the armed forces and special guests.

After the ceremony the members of the military junta and the president left for [words indistinct], where Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti gave Adm Emilio Massera a souvenir medal.

ECONOMY MINISTER PETES PRC DELEGATION HEAD

OW161800Y Peking NCNA in English 1615 GMT 16 Sep 78 OW

[Text] Buenos Aires, September 15 (HSINHUA)--Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz gave a luncheon in honour of Wei Yu-ming, leader of the Chinese delegation to the U.N. Conference on technical cooperation among developing countries and vice-minister of economic relations with foreign countries, here today.

Also present on the occasion were Hsu Chung-fu, deputy leader of the Chinese delegation and ambassador to Argentina, and other members, of the delegation.

At the luncheon which proceeded in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, Minister Martinez de Hoz said that the two countries should work harder to further develop their friendly relations and increase mutual understanding.

Also present at the luncheon were Daniel Brunella, secretary of energy of the Argentine Economic Ministry; Mario Cadenas Macariaga, secretary of agriculture and livestock breeding; Raymundo Podesta Wilmart, secretary of industrial development; and Juan Ocampo, president of the National Bank.

Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes and Minister of Planning Carlos Enrique Laidlaw received Wei Yu-ming and had a friendly and cordial talk with him respectively on August 31 and September 8.

VIDELA CLAIMS POLITICAL PLAN TO BE 'ALL-INCLUSIVE'

PY181249Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 17 Sep 78 p 11 PY

[Text] President Jorge Rafael Videla said in an interview published here yesterday that "with two and a half years of our administration behind us, the conditions for the formulation of a political plan are beginning to develop." This plan, he added, will be put together with a "all-inclusive criterion" which will take in "political, business and union life."

In the course of the interview, which was published in the local newspaper TIEMPO DE CORDOBA, the president also answered questions on the national "dialogue," civilian participation in the government, negotiations with Chile and relations with the United States.

In response to one question, Videla said it is "surprising" that economic difficulties should pose an obstacle to national dialogue. "The topic of the economy has always been polemical in our country," he observed. "It has had the peculiarity of concentrating the guilt for existing problems on the government."

Answering other questions, the president said he is "optimistic" about the negotiations with Chile, and "unaware" of suggestions from quarters that as a result of problems with the U.S.--the country's alliances should be reconsidered. On the contrary, he said that his talks with Mondale had served to lay the foundations for improving relations between the two countries in the future. He described Mondale as an "intelligent and experienced" man.

Videla was asked about charges that his government has unduly delayed putting up a political plan and laying down rules for union and business activities. He replied that it is circumstance and not the will of the government which imposes the rhythm of events. "To try to conduct events according to the exclusive will of the government," he declared, "can lead the best intentions to failure."

Turning to the fight against subversion, the president affirmed that "there are the victorious and the vanquished." "Victorious has been the entire Argentine people who with sacrifice and abnegation stood by the armed forces in one of the most cruel stages of our existence as a nation. Vanquished are those who, through violence and corruption, tried to take power to implant a despotic regime alien to our democratic traditions."

Unfortunately, the president concluded many businessmen have failed to appreciate the "economic value of political stability." "The recovery of a future which is practically lost before March 24, 1976," he declared, "has passed unnoticed by many who continue betting more on the short term than on the long term."

GEISEL VOWS POLITICAL REFORMS WILL BE CARRIED OUT

PY151420Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Uruguayana, Brazil, 14 Sep (AFP)--Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel stated here today that political reforms will be carried out and that the aberration (aberracion) of institutional acts will end.

General Geisel made this statement during a meeting with mayors from 24 municipalities of the western region of the Rio Grande do Sul State. He said that "in addition to this, we are working to perfect our democratic system."

Furthermore he said that Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, who was appointed to succeed him as president, "will continue this task during his 6 years in office."

General Geisel this year sent to the national Congress a draft of political reforms which will notify [words indistinct] enforced in the country and which will establish defense mechanisms for government and society.

This draft, which was approved on Wednesday by the Joint Congressional Commission, will be voted on by Congress on Friday or Monday.

Since the government party, the National Renewal Alliance (ARENA), has a majority, even if the opposition abstains, these measures probably will go into effect on 1 January 1979, 45 days before the end of Gen Ernesto Geisel's presidential term.

MAGALHAES PINTO BOWS OUT, ENDORSES FIGUEIREDO

PY151453Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Sep (TELAM-EFE)--Jose Magalhaes Pinto, a dissident senator in the government party, has withdrawn his self-styled candidacy for the presidency of the country and admitted that he will support the official candidate, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

I am still a member of the official party and it is therefore normal for me to support the official candidate, Senator Magalhaes Pinto explained in a statement made in Brasilia.

Although he still considers himself a civilian option for the nation's presidency, Magalhaes Pinto recognized that his support for General Figueiredo implied his withdrawal as presidential candidate.

Magalhaes Pinto's decision to support General Figueiredo is to be understood as his reconciliation with the regime as well as a hard blow to the aspirations of the opposition candidate, Gen Euler Monteiro, who had hopes of getting the support of Magalhaes Pinto's followers.

It seems that General Monteiro was sure about getting the votes of Magalhaes Pinto's followers who will be members of the electoral college which is to elect President Ernesto Geisel's successor on 15 October.

CARDINAL ARNS OF SAO PAULO SAYS DEMOCRACY WANTED NOW

PY151757Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The people want total democracy, not just a beginning, said Sao Paulo Cardinal Evaristo Arns, adding that everybody including upper class people want immediate democracy.

The Sao Paulo cardinal does not believe that there is any chance of radicalization, first because the people do not want it and second because we need to be united when the return to democracy is announced.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SURPRISED WESTERN ANTITERROR MOVE CANCELED

PY161730Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 16 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The western powers have decided to cancel their project to combat international terrorism, the Brazilian mission to the United Nations has reported, and this has been received with surprise by Itamaraty.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry noted that only 3 weeks ago the ambassadors of the United States, the FRG and Japan asked Brazil to support the project to be voted at the UN.

On that occasion Itamaraty said Brazil supports all type of initiatives to repress terrorism but did not promise to vote for it because the project was considered too limited and too weak for Itamaraty.

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE CITIZENS EXPELLED--Brasilia, 15 Sep (AFP)--Argentine citizens Miguel Bressano and Rita Lucia Strasberg were expelled today from Brazil for political reasons. They were detained on 23 August in Sao Paulo together with other members of the political movement Socialist Convergence. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

SONDA III LAUNCH--The Sixth launching of the Sonda III rocket will take place on 27 September at the launching field of Barreira do Inferno in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte. This is the latest model developed by the Space Research Institute of the Airspace Technical Center of Sao Jose dos Campos, [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

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PY151358Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1355 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpt] Arica, Chile, 15 Sep (TELAM-EFE)--Gen Guillermo Toro Davila, intendant of the 1st region Tarapaca, has acknowledged in Arica (Chile) that there is disagreement with Bolivia regarding the location of border marker No 38, referring to rumors that Chilean peasants or military personnel have invaded territories of the neighboring country.

General Toro categorically denied that there have been troop movements at the Bolivian border.

He stated that, in view of the disagreement, it has been requested that the Chilean-Bolivian bipartite commission hold a meeting to study the situation thoroughly and determine the true border.

BRIEFS

URUGUAYAN COMMANDER'S VISIT--Santiago, Chile, 14 Sep (AFP)--Lt Gen Raul Bendahan, commander in chief of the Uruguayan Air Force, arrived here today for a 7-day official visit. General Bendahan will participate in the commemoration of the 168th anniversary of Chile's independence on 18 September. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0029 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

GENERALS, ADMIRALS APPOINTED--Santiago, Chile, 14 Sep (AFP)--It was reported here today that President Augusto Pinochet today installed 35 new generals and rear admirals. Of these, 12 are army brigadier generals, 7 rear admirals, 13 air force generals, and 5 carabineros generals. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 14 Sep 78 PY]

DETENTIONS REPORTED--Santiago, Chile, 15 Sep (AFP)--It was reported today that seven colonists and a University of Chile sociology student were detained here by security forces. The Catholic Church presented a petition of habeas corpus to the Court of Appeals, indicating that the colonists were detained north of Santiago near Choncali during a military operation in which armed civilians participated. The sociology student was taken from her home by three civilians who identified themselves as members of the National Information Center. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

BISHOP SUBMITS INQUIRY--Santiago--The bishop of the province of Nuble has sent a letter to the interior minister asking to report on the whereabouts of 31 missing persons who were members of his parish. [Santiago Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Sep 78 PY]

REPORT ON ARRESTS--Santiago--The National Information Center has reported on the arrest of five persons who were found writing subversive pamphlets and carrying weapons. The report indicates that the persons arrested are (Lorenzo Pizarro Vallejos), a professor; (Sandoval Barros), a businessman and member of the Communist Party; (Luis Humberto Vera), also a member of the Communist Party; and (Claudia Donoso Croco), a sociologist and member of the Communist Youth. All five are at the disposal of the first military prosecutor. The carabineros also arrested (Juan Carlos Berrier Alvarez), an economics student and member of the Christian Democratic Party, who tried to escape after creating confusion in downtown Santiago. [Santiago Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Sep 78 PY]

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DEFENDS NEW SECURITY STATUTE

PA152053Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The government last night vigorously defended the security statute that was promulgated last week, emphasizing not only its importance in correcting the delicate public order situation in the country, but also announcing that complementary measures will be taken in the next few days.

The chief of political affairs [as heard], German Zea Hernandez, during a plenary session of the Senate, responded to arguments against the statute by Humberto (Crisales) de la Rosa of the National Opposition Union. He said all governments would like to begin their mandates without a state of siege. However, this does not depend on the ruler but rather on the circumstances, and to do otherwise would be tantamount to turning over the future of the republic to outlaws and hoodlums and bringing Colombia to a state of institutional chaos and total anarchy.

Minister German Zea directly accused communists of being responsible for terrorism in Colombia. That party, he said, has been abandoned by Colombians and, since it has been unable in 40 years to achieve its objective, which is to take power, it has resorted to violent measures as a means of saving face.

The minister added that under this government there will be no censorship of the press, and he described as a fallacy the statement that the security statute is designed solely to persecute leftist groups by elevating their activities to the rank of political crimes.

We are condemning crimes such as kidnaping, extortion and terrorist acts deriving from public demonstrations, the government minister explained in response to a question from Senator (Crisales) de la Rosa. Only those acts listed in the penal code as crimes will be punished, he said.

Minister Zea Hernandez rejected the possibility that by making military courts responsible for investigating crimes of this type, the government is providing an opportunity for the military to take power. Going into greater detail on this subject, the minister praised the armed forces' devotion to democratic institutions.

LABOR UNIONS SEE MEASURES AS CAMPAIGN AGAINST WORKERS

PA152250Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0422 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 14 Sep (AFP)--The National Labor Union Council today launched a violent attack against the recent government measures on security in Colombia and denounced a campaign against workers being waged by employers and the government. A communique to this effect was issued at the end of a 4-hour meeting held by leaders of the four main unions.

In the document the council denied having offered support to the government as a result of the issuance of the security statute and stated that the suspension of ceremonies to commemorate the first anniversary of the national civic strike, which had been planned for today, was due to the repressive measures adopted by the authorities. Likewise, it rejected accusations that the workers movement was linked to recent acts of terrorism, which it condemned.

"We denounce the campaign on the part of the employers and government against the rights and interests of the workers, which is evident in the so-called security statute, the defense minister's threats to apply the law of the jungle, and the official announcement of using Article 28 of the Constitution in order to conduct arbitrary arrests," the communique added.

The communique admitted that "some newspapers are trying to shape public opinion and give objective and impartial information," but it denounced the "gag placed on the radio and television stations in an effort to hide the labor conflicts and the people's struggles."

Concluding, the communique appealed for the unity and strengthening of the working class as well as for solidarity with the workers. The document was signed by the presidents and other leaders of the Union of workers of Colombia (UTC-conservative), of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC-moderate left), of the General Labor Confederation (CGT-Socialist) and of Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CSTC-communist). These groups, which include most of the country's labor force, were the ones that joined forces to stage the national civic stoppage on 14 September 1977 which resulted in disturbances that took a toll of 12 dead and many persons wounded and arrested.

PROGRAM AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING ANNOUNCED

PA162257Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Sep 78 pp 1A, 5A PA

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Excerpt] In an attempt to curb the shocking boom in drug trafficking registered in our country, the national government will implement a number of measures of the most varied kinds, all of them very severe and wide-ranging, within the next few days.

One of these measures, which may turn out to be quite effective, will call for a restriction of air operations in those areas where it is positively known that there are large marijuana plantations, as is the case in Guajira and Magdalena departments and in several regions in the eastern plains.

In enforcing these regulations, the civilian authorities will be aided by the Colombian armed forces, whose members will receive precise and peremptory instructions to shoot anybody violating the corresponding regulations or ignoring the orders given to the pilots of suspicious planes.

Another of the rules to be introduced in this already lengthy and bloody struggle against the powerful drug mafias operating in Colombia will make those individuals who do not cooperate with the authorities responsible for their refusal to cooperate. Drastic sanctions will be imposed in those cases.

Up to now, investigators had paid very little attention to the silence of civilian accomplices or public officials, a fact which has permitted the drug traffickers' activities to extend gradually and threateningly.

It might be said that precautionary arrest, the destruction of the drugs found in their possession and the seizure of the vehicles used for transporting the drugs have been the only measures enforced so far against the persons involved in this type of activity.

CABINET CHANGES; NEW MINISTERS TAKE OVER 18 SEPTEMBER

A170303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 September (AFP)--The Peruvian Government reshuffled its cabinet today. The number of civilians in the cabinet was reduced from three to two. It was officially reported tonight that all the ministers, except those who make up the revolutionary government junta, resigned in order to leave President Morales Bermudez "free to form a new cabinet."

The announcement said the resignations of Industry, Commerce, Tourism and Integration Minister Gabriel Lanatta, Education Minister Gen Otto Elespuru, Health Minister Gen Oscar Davila and Housing and Construction Minister Rear Adm Geronimo Cafferate had been accepted. The so-called "Superministry" of Industry, Commerce, Tourism and Integration was entrusted to Rear Adm Jorge du Bois Gervassi, who had previously represented Peru at the Andean Group. Lanatta's resignation leaves Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente and Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete as the only civilian in the cabinet.

The Education Ministry was entrusted to Gen Jose Guabloche Rodriguez, the Health Ministry to Gen Eduardo Rivasplata Hurtado and the Housing and Construction Ministry to Gen Cesar Rosas Cresto. All have held administrative posts during the past few years.

Lanatta's ouster had been expected since his differences with the economy and finance minister were made public, especially those regarding the private sector's role in the economic recovery. However, commentators expected him to be replaced by a representative of the business sector, like Lanatta himself, who was director of the Industries Association prior to assuming the ministerial post last May.

The other ministry changes seem to adhere to the military practices applied in cabinet reorganizations since the establishment of the military regime in 1968. However, the local press said the education and health ministers had differences with the rest of the cabinet over the handling of the recent strikes by teachers and hospital personnel. In regard to the housing minister, it was believed he had little success in reactivating the construction industry.

The new ministers will be sworn in at noon Monday.

As a result of the cabinet reorganization, the cabinet is now structured in the following manner:

Prime minister and minister of war:	Gen Oscar Molina Pallochía
Navy minister:	Vice Adm Jorge Papodi Galliani
Aeronautics minister:	Gen Jorge Tamayo de la Flor
Foreign relations minister:	Jose de la Puente Radbill
Economy and finance minister:	Javier Silva Ruete
Transportation and communications minister:	Gen Elivio Vanini Chumpitazi
Fisheries minister:	Vice Adm Francisco Mariategui Angulo
Labor minister:	Gen Jose Garcia Calderon Koechlin
Education minister:	Gen Jose Guabloche Rodriguez
Agriculture and nutrition minister:	Brig Gen Luis Arbulu Ibanez
Industry, commerce, tourism and integration minister:	Rear Adm Jorge du Bois Gervasi
Housing and construction minister:	Gen Cesar Rosas Cresto
Health minister:	Gen Eduardo Rivasplata Hurtado
Interior minister:	Gen Fernando Velit Sabattini

DISPATCH DATES U.S. AMBASSY WASHINGTON NICARAGUA

PA16038Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 15 September (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi announced today that U.S. mercenaries contracted by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza are machinegunning the Nicaraguan people.

Consalvi returned tonight from a 2-day trip to Costa Rica where he obtained first-hand information on the Central America situation. During his visit he signed a Venezuelan-Costa Rican mutual cooperation treaty in the event the territorial integrity of either of the two countries is threatened.

He said that not only the Nicaraguan National Guard, but "what is worse, Vietnam war veterans" are machinegunning the people. He added that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission will arrive in Nicaragua on 5 October but that if the present situation continues, "the first thing the commission will have to do is bury the dead."

DISPATCH OF PLANES CONSTITUTE 'WARNING' TO SOMOZA

PA161522Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (AFP)--The sending of Venezuelan warplanes to Costa Rica constitutes a warning that "may turn into practical action" if Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza's regime attacks that country, Senate President Gonzalo Barrios said here today. Barrios is also president of the official Democratic Action Party [AD], which has a majority in both chambers of Congress.

"The warning represented by the arrival of the Venezuelan planes in Costa Rica may turn into practical action against Anastasio Somoza's dictatorial regime if he carries out an attack against that defenseless Central American country," he added.

Despite the heated electoral debate that will culminate with the general elections to be held at the year's end--in which both AD and the Social Christian Party [COPEI] have an equal chance--the two parties have affirmed that their common objective is to find a democratic solution for Nicaragua.

COPEI presidential candidate Luis Herrera, who usually criticizes the government severely, has said that he fully endorses the sending of five Venezuelan combat planes to Costa Rica.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has reiterated that his country's solidarity with Costa Rica "has no limits" and that as a result of the Somoza repression, Nicaragua "has become a cemetery."

PORT, OIL WORKERS BEGIN ANTI-NICARAGUA BOYCOTT

PA161656Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1356 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 16 Sep (AFP)--The Venezuelan port workers today agreed to stage a boycott against all ships headed for Nicaragua.

Furthermore, at a joint meeting of port workers and the Petroleum Workers Federation it was decided that crude oil supplies to the Nicaraguan Government would also be suspended.

According to these labor sectors, they have asked their counterparts in Mexico, Canada, the United States, Colombia and, in general, all Latin American countries "where there are no dictatorships" to support the Nicaraguan people in their struggle against "Somoza's bloody dictatorship."

S ENVOY SAYS PANAMA WILL DEFEND COSTA RICAN SOVEREIGNTY

PA15-133Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Nander Pitti Velasquez, Panama's ambassador to the OAS, told this station last night that Panama will support Costa Rica's territorial and sovereign integrity to the very end. Pitti Velasquez also indicated that Costa Rica has always shown solidarity with our people's struggles. Supporting Costa Rica, the ambassador stressed, also means defending the Panama Canal. We will now hear Panama's representative to the OAS in connection with our country's stand at the organization's special meeting, called by Costa Rica in the wake of the continuous violations of its airspace by General Somoza's forces:

[Begin recording] We are going to support Costa Rica to the very end. Our entire National Guard is on the alert. We shall fight to the very last Panamanian in defense of Costa Rican territorial integrity and in defense of Costa Rican sovereign rights.

I believe this feeling is shaped by all of Latin America. I know Venezuela has signed a treaty of military cooperation and reciprocal aid with Costa Rica under which it has promised to provide Costa Rica with all military forces necessary to defend Costa Rica's territorial integrity to the very last centimeter.

Those have been my instructions [words indistinct] and I must move within those lines. So long as I receive no instructions to the contrary, I have General Torrijos' full authority to continue along this path on defending Costa Rican territory, freedom and sovereign integrity, which amounts to (?protecting) the Panama Canal. [end recording]

Meanwhile, there will be a vote Tuesday on a Venezuelan proposal to the OAS. According to which that organization is to adopt specific actions in connection with the repressive measures unleashed against the Nicaraguan people by General Somoza's regime. Regarding this, Nander Pitti Velasquez stressed that Panama will endorse Venezuela's proposal.

[Begin recording] Regarding the Nicaraguan problem, I have also been instructed to support Venezuela's request that a meeting of foreign ministers be called in accordance with the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. As regards Venezuela's request, Panama fully endorses Venezuela's request that Nicaragua's situation be examined, for it is no longer an internal or domestic matter; it has now become a hemispheric situation, and we are trying to weigh the confrontation between people on their feet, standing tall in the face of any army that is trying to massacre them. [end recording]

TWO OFFICIALS RESIGN TO JOIN NICARAGUAN PEOPLES STRUGGLE

PA151935Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Health Vice Minister Dr Hugo Spadafora and Foreign Ministry Adviser Jorge Aparicio resigned their posts today to join the internationalist brigades on behalf of the Nicaraguan people's struggle.

Spadafora met with a small number of newsmen who asked him about the government's stand on the Nicaraguan situation. The vice minister explained that although his resignation has not been accepted, he will leave his post anyway because the Nicaraguan people cannot wait. At present there are a number of Panamanian volunteers willing to give their support to the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for total and final liberation.

For his part, Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla has reiterated Panama's determination to support the Costa Rican people in preserving their sovereignty and right to self-determination.

MORE SANDINISTS GRANTED ASYLUM ON ARRIVAL FROM COSTA RICA

PA172044Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1706 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--A group of 30 Sandinist guerrillas who had entered Costa Rican territory yesterday after clashes with the Nicaraguan National Guard arrived as exiles in Panama today. The Sandinists, all Nicaraguans, arrived at Tocumen International Airport aboard a Costa Rican LACSA plane which was chartered by the Panamanian Government.

A member of the group, identified as Commander Cesar, 30, said they came to Panama to avoid conflicts between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, whose relations are tense due to the presumed violation of Costa Rican airspace by Nicaraguan military aircraft.

Commander Cesar added that they will regain their strength in Panama and then go to Nicaragua to pursue the struggle against Anastasio Somoza's regime.

The Sandinists were taken to a capital city garrison in a Panamanian National Guard bus.

Another group of Sandinist exiles came to Panama last week after entering Costa Rica in the wake of several clashes with the Nicaraguan National Guard.

PANAMENISTS DENY IMMEDIATE PLANS TO REACH POWER

PA152224Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Sep 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[By Jorge Mombeliard]

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the Panamenist Party [PP] affirmed yesterday during a nationwide radio program that the Panamenists will continue to exert civic pressure for establishment of true democracy in Panama. He made it clear, however, tha the party does not seek power "for the time being."

The PP spokesman said: "We are not interested in power for the time being, but we are indeed interested in the country's democratization, and we will struggle for it together with the people."

He admitted, nevertheless, that there are very capable people in the military who should not be restricted to military duties only. Referring to the 6 August elections, when the people elected 505 Corregimiento representatives, the spokesman said the Panamenists' abstention from participating in the elections was not on instructions from Arias but on a consensus basis. "The decision was not made by Arias or the party's political committee; the doctor does not adopt unilateral decisions," he said, defending Arias.

COSTA RICA

CIL DEFENSE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

PA151913Y San Jose Radio Reloj, in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Costa Rican-Venezuelan Joint declaration signed 15 September in San Jose--read by announcer]

[Text] Joint declaration signed by the foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Venezuela:

Loyal to the purposes, principles and obligations listed in the charters of the Organization of American States, of the United Nations and of the Inter-American treaty of Reciprocal Assistance; encouraged by wishes of consolidating and strengthening its ties of friendship, insuring peace and defending its sovereignty, territory and political independence;

Convinced that: The genuine feeling of American solidarity and good neighborliness can be none other than that of consolidating on its continent a regime of individual liberty and social justice, within the framework of democratic institutions, founded on the respect of the rights of man;

International order is essential when constituted by respect for the persons, sovereignty, and independence of states;

American solidarity and the high goals it pursues require the political organization of the same, based on the effective exercise of representative democracy;

The obligation of mutual aid and joint defense is essentially linked to its democratic ideals and its permanent will of cooperation in order to achieve the principles and purposes of a policy of peace and of implementing peaceful means to solve its disputes as provided for by international law;

That juridical organization is a necessary condition for peace and security and that peace is based on justice and moral order, and therefore, in the international recognition and protection of human rights and liberties, in the indispensable well-being of the peoples and the effectiveness of democracy in order to reach international justice and safety;

Recognizing that the present situation is resulting in hostile actions which go against the sovereignty and territory of Costa Rica and affect the tranquillity of this sister nation and represent a threat to maintaining peace in the region;

It is hereby stated that:

Abiding by the commitments made by both countries regarding the exercise of the inherent right of legitimate individual or collective defense according to the corresponding inter-American and international instruments, the governments of the Republic of Costa Rica and of the Republic of Venezuela hereby commit their resources, assistance and mutual cooperation on behalf of upholding the sovereignty and territory of the two nations.

San Jose, 15 September 1978

Simon Alberto Consalvi, foreign minister of Venezuela; Bernardo Niehaus Quezada, acting foreign minister of Costa Rica

PANAMA, VENEZUELAN MILITARY HARDWARE WILL NOT BE USED

PA170205Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 Sep (AFP)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo said tonight that in the conflict with Nicaragua his country will not use military materiel received from Panama and Venezuela.

In a telephone conversation from San Jose with the Colombian "Caracol" network, Carazo said the Nicaraguan people are experiencing a "very serious" situation.

The president discarded a break in diplomatic relations with the Somoza government because in his opinion it is necessary to await the results of the OAS mission's investigation of the border problems between the two countries.

Carazo said Costa Rica has received military equipment from Panama and Venezuela as a proof of good will and that it will not be necessary to use it because the problem is in the OAS' hands.

Carazo said his country had been trying to mediate in the Nicaraguan conflict to achieve peace when on 12 September Nicaraguan warplanes violated Costa Rican airspace.

Carazo said Costa Rica has all the evidence to present to the OAS regarding the Nicaraguan aggression.

SECURITY VICE MINISTER REPORTS ON BORDER SITUATION

PA171411Y San Jose Radio Relof in Spanish 1323 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Telephone interview with Public Security Vice Minister Enrique Montealegre]

[Text] [Question] Could you tell us about the latest developments in the northern region?

[Answer] There has been an unconfirmed report that a rural guardsman was attacked by a Nicaraguan plane in the area of Upala, or Cuatro Hojas-Upala. We immediately sent a helicopter and a doctor with the necessary equipment to investigate and, if there were any wounded, to evacuate them to a hospital here in San Jose.

[Question] What is the situation on the northern border? We have been trying to communicate with Penas Blancas but no one has answered the telephone at the border checkpoint.

[Answer] The last report we have is that a surprise attack was apparently staged by the guerrillas at dawn today, at about 0400, and our reports indicate that they have at least taken control of the civilian population. This is the latest report.

[Question] Has there been any deployment of the Costa Rican Civil Guard from the border checkpoint back toward Costa Rican territory? In other words, have they retreated and are they no longer at the checkpoint itself?

[Answer] There was an initial withdrawal, logically, because, according to reports, the attack was very intense and there was heavy crossfire. This prompted our guards to retreat to prevent anyone from being wounded by a stray bullet. However, at this moment Colonel Gutierrez is a ready head for the border area. He is probably already there. He will report to us later about this.

[Question] Don Enrique, can you tell us if the Venezuelan and Panamanian planes which are now at the international airport will leave for the area today, this morning?

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[Answer] Well, no. This is actually a decision that will be adopted later, depending on how the situation develops at the border.

[Question] Will other Costa Rican troops be sent to the northern area?

[Answer] We have a sufficient number of troops and will send whatever is necessary in case any attack occurs. However, everything is actually calm on the Costa Rican side.

RADIO REPORTER UPDATES SITUATION AT BORDER AREA

PA171442Y San Jose Radio Releoj in Spanish 1349 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Correspondent Rodolfo Martin report from Liberia, via telephone]

[Excerpts] Fighting is taking place on Nicaraguan soil. A few minutes ago Nicaraguan Air Force planes were overflying the area in pursuit of Sandinist National Liberation Front members.

Nicaraguan Air Force planes, two fighter-bombers, arrived first and later two jet-type planes arrived which are heavily bombing the Sandinist National Liberation Front members. It is not necessary to note that in this area the national liberation front enjoys all the sympathy of the people, who cooperate with them in whatever way they can.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front attacked the border post with mortars and bazookas at 0345. They seized control of it about 30 minutes later when the Nicaraguan forces abandoned the post. Eden Pastora is still in command of the group of about 150 people advancing toward Granada. They will first take over Rivas and then go on to Granada and Masaya to continue in a single (?victorious) column to Managua. They hope to do this very soon, Eden Pastora said.

Three women, one of them pregnant, are carrying bazookas, mortars and machineguns. The truth is that we newsmen felt badly seeing those women carrying the weapons while we were covering the news when maybe it should have been the other way around.

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES NICARAGUAN CHARGES

PA171625Y San Jose Radio Releoj in Spanish 1554 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Telephone interview with Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernardo Niehaus]

[Text] [Question] Mr Niehaus, what can you tell us about the reports coming from Managua accusing Costa Rica of having promoted attacks against Nicaraguan territory?

[Answer] Well, these reports are completely false, far removed from the truth. [Nicaraguan Ambassador to Costa Rica] Lacayo telephoned me early this morning at home, around 0715. All the Venezuelan planes that are here have not moved. They have strict orders not to move unless the president instructs them. Therefore, these reports are unfounded, not at all true.

[Question] Mr Niehaus, do you think these reports by the Nicaraguan Government could be a smokescreen in view of the fact that the special OAS mission is scheduled to arrive today?

[Answer] If these charges are unfounded, I really cannot find any other explanation, unless the Nicaraguan Government is so totally misinformed, let us say.

[Question] The report from Managua says Ambassador Juan Bautista Lacayo has presented a formal protest note by the Nicaraguan Government to the Costa Rican Government regarding the aggression. What can you tell us about that?

[Answer] The protests of Ambassador Iacayo have been presented over the telephone, that is informally, verbally. Surely he will present them in written form to the Foreign Ministry. Right now I am at my home [words indistinct].

GOVERNMENT DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN BORDER ATTACK

PA171853Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1801 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Costa Rican Presidential Communique issued 17 September, read by Cesar Nieto of the Presidential Press and Information Office]

[Text] The government flatly denies the report released by Nicaraguan officials that Costa Rican Civil Guard forces attacked the Penas Blancas border post. Our government also protests the attempt to confuse the fraternal Nicaraguan people through the use of completely false news. All newsmen at the border area know that no action has been directed from national territory against the Nicaraguan Government National Guard and that the Venezuelan Air Force planes which are here on a courtesy visit to our country [words indistinct] overflowed foreign territory. By this means, the government again strongly urges all news media to avoid alarming news or reports which may benefit the country's enemies.

OAS DELEGATION ARRIVES, WILL VISIT NORTHERN BORDER

PA172219Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2110 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] The delegation of the Organization of American States arrived in our country on a LACSA flight at 1445. It is made up of Oliver Jackman, Barbadian ambassador to the OAS; Kemil Dipp-Gomez, of the Dominican Republic; and Jose Joaquin Gori, of Colombia. The delegation was received by President Rodrigo Carazo Odio and Quesada, acting foreign minister in the absence of Minister Calderon Fournier, the interior minister and [name indistinct].

Mr Gori, the Colombian representative, who is the head of the mission, has said that the delegation will go to Liberia whenever it is necessary. When President Rodrigo Odio was asked about the charges made by Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle's government to the effect that Venezuelan military planes and Costa Rican troops had invaded the border, he replied: You newsmen are the best witnesses that the charge is absolutely false.

EL SALVADOR

POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES ATTACK U.S. EMBASSY

PA162210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1857 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE) --The machinegun attack staged at dawn today, Saturday, by the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) against the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador was called operation "war against Yankee imperialism." The self-styled "Central FPL Command" released a communique here to report on the terrorist attack. In a 3-page message, the extremist group claims that a FPL flag was left at the U.S. Embassy during the machinegun attack staged by what it describes as the "armed commando group of the revolutionary guerrilla and the popular militias." It speaks out against the penetration of "Yankee imperialism" and the celebration of the "fatherland's independence," which it labels the independence of the powerful classes to exploit the people. The document calls for the release of the so-called political prisoners and a reduction in the price of housing, fertilizer, rents, agricultural land, water and electric power. It states that the United States plays an active role in the counterinsurgency struggle in Central America and charges that the United States occupies its embassy and other institutions such as the United Nations, the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank. [sentence as received]

GUATEMALA

VIOLENCE MARKS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

PY160356Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1604 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--One person shot, 40 people injured by stones, almost 100 arrested and several stores looted was the toll from violent disturbances which occurred early Friday morning in the Guatemalan capital. Thousands of persons gathered in front of the Government Palace at midnight to celebrate the 157th anniversary of Central American independence when some 300 youths unexpectedly burst into the downtown area, stoning those present and looting businesses. A pitched battle ensued until police intervened and arrested 98 of the youths. It was learned that many of them are mere children.

Guatemalan Red Cross headquarters treated 40 persons for injuries caused by stones and transferred 1 person, identified as Ramiro Orellana, to the general hospital with a bullet wound. Before being dispersed, the youths looted and destroyed some 10 stores located in front of the presidency of the republic. This is the second consecutive year in which such disturbances have occurred early in the morning of the day of Central America's independence from the Spanish crown.

Today, Friday, the Guatemalan Army redoubled vigilance throughout the capital, even mobilizing armed personnel carriers and helicopters, which were flying over the route of the traditional military parade that is held on this date. Soldiers armed with machineguns were posted on rooftops, including the roof of the metropolitan cathedral. The parade--during which bombs were hurled 2 years ago--ended in the parade grounds with honors to the flag, a greeting for President Romeo Lucas Garcia and other ceremonies commemorating independence.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR MACHINEGUNNED; IN CRITICAL CONDITION

PA162329Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemala City Medical Center announced this afternoon Nicaraguan ambassador to this country Edmundo Meneses Cantarero is alive, although in critical condition, after having been machinegunned by terrorists. It was said at 1630 (2230 GMT) that the diplomat, who has three bullet wounds in his back, was being operated on in an attempt to save his life.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS NEUTRALITY TOWARD NICARAGUA

PA170147Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1744 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran military government today reaffirmed its position of absolute neutrality in regard to the internal affairs of Nicaragua. Herman Allan Padgett, the government's press secretary, reaffirmed this position when he denied statements allegedly made by a military officer concerning an eventual intervention by the Honduran army in Nicaraguan events.

A local newspaper recently published statements allegedly made by Defense Minister Lt Col Diego Landa Celano, according to which a possible intervention by the armies of the area in Nicaragua was not being discarded. Padgett said Landa Celano had not made the statement and that the armed forces government maintains its position of neutrality in regard to Nicaragua's affairs. The official recalled that Honduras has not been an active member of the Central American Defense Council since 1969, which makes it impossible for Honduras to take the initiative in promoting intervention by the area's military forces in Nicaragua. He said "Honduras is a peaceful country and would only be prepared to intervene in other countries if it is a matter of mediating for the peace and tranquillity of nations."

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA RUMORED TO HAVE SUFFERED STROKE; REPORT DENIED

PA160752Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0737 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] There are rumors that Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza has just suffered a stroke. We have tried to confirm our reporter's report by calling Nicaragua, but no one there knows what is happening and they claim these are only rumors. Colonel Porras of the presidential household said that Somoza is resting in his room. We will investigate the rumor further, as it has spread to Honduras, Guatemala and other Central American countries.

Said To Be Confirmed

PA161532Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] A strong rumor circulated in this capital and in Managua last night that Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle had suffered a stroke. However, this was heard not only in the capitals of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, but also in Guatemala City, where television Channel 11 reported the stroke suffered by the Nicaraguan president, who is currently facing a civil war.

This station telephoned Guatemala City Channel 11, which reported that the news had been confirmed by President Somoza's press secretary. However, it was not possible for us to obtain official confirmation because it was reported that no telephone calls could be put through to the presidential residence in Nicaragua.

The rumor appeared along with news that at 1030 a cease-fire had taken place in the city of Leon, where fierce clashes occurred between the Sandinist rebels and the National Guard. We were able to confirm this report in Managua.

Correspondent Santiago Meneses confirmed in Managua at midnight that rumors of Somoza's new ailment were persistently circulating in Managua, but he noted that it was impossible to confirm this when we called him. He reminded us of the censorship imposed by Somoza so that we would not make him say too much.

In addition to the rumor of a stroke, it was also reported that a U.S. plane had left for Managua to take him to a U.S. medical center. If Gen Anastasio Somoza has suffered any illness within the past few hours, it will be difficult to confirm this soon because the press censorship imposed in Nicaragua is being rigidly enforced and national and foreign newsmen reporting on the civil war are not allowed any kind of freedom.

Somoza in 'Perfect' Health

PA161644Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1617 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Now, in recent days, Costa Rican stations have come up with yet another one of their fabricated, untruthful and ill-intentioned reports by saying that the president of the republic has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. They [words indistinct] want to sow terror among Nicaraguan citizens [words indistinct]. This is nothing but a new trick of the Costa Rican radio broadcasters who have declared war on our people. They will not [words indistinct]. Despite the stress and tiring work undertaken by the head of state in order to save our fatherland from the communist claws, he is in a perfect state of health. [word indistinct] the attitude of the Nicaraguan people who have turned their backs on the Sandino-communists refusing to [words indistinct].

President Somoza is [words indistinct] enjoying good health and attending to his obligations as a ruler and a man [words indistinct] tranquillity of his fatherland, doing his work in order to recover the lost [word indistinct].

PANAMA, VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA ENVOYS SUMMONED

PA170234Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0202 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana--read by announcer]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency has issued the following communique:

The Nicaraguan foreign minister informs the people that it has become aware, by means of international press reports, of some attitudes on the part of the Costa Rican, Panamanian and Venezuelan governments which could have serious repercussions in Nicaragua. The situation is being carefully analyzed by the Foreign Ministry in order to take measures, in those cases where it is indicated, in accordance with inter-American law and existing agreements and international conventions. Therefore, the heads of the diplomatic missions of Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela will be called to the Foreign Ministry in order to obtain the appropriate explanations.

President Gen Anastasio Somoza has reasserted in various public statements his conciliatory attitude and his intention to seek a peaceful solution to the temporary difficult situation affecting the Nicaraguans. In view of the news circulating abroad, which is distorting the national situation with the well-defined purpose of confusing and disorienting world public opinion and encouraging subversive activities by terrorist elements, the Foreign Ministry announces that the government has complete control of all the national territory and that the National Guard continues, within legal procedures, to neutralize the last terrorist redoubts in order to restore peace in Nicaragua.

[Signed] Foreign Minister Julio Quintana Villanueva

Participation in Attack Charged

PA171547Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Military forces coming from Costa Rica once again attacked treacherously the border area known as Penas Blancas (southern part of the country), according to an official communique issued by the Nicaraguan Information and Press Secretariat.

The official information office of the government announced a communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry whereby the Foreign Ministry voices its deep concern and, before the Nicaraguan people and international public opinion, charges that at 0400 hours today, 17 September 1978, military forces coming from Costa Rica treacherously attacked once again the border area in the place known as Penas Blancas. The Foreign Ministry added that this aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the most essential rules of American international law and denounces it before international public opinion which is constantly shocked by systematic propaganda inspired by Marxist-Leninists.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique emphasizes that this international campaign seeks to make Nicaragua appear as the aggressor when, on the contrary, terrorist forces of various nationalities are operating with the complicity of the Costa Rican Government, and are carefully planning their military attacks against Nicaragua from its territory.

The Nicaraguan Government likewise denounces before the Organization of American States this new aggression, which is our right within this inter-American system of which we are a part, the Foreign Ministry adds. It also reports that this morning, Sunday, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, Juan Battista Lacayo, presented a formal protest to the Foreign Ministry of that government concerning this new military aggression which has already obtained the military support of the Venezuelan Government, as Venezuelan combat planes participated in this new aggression against our national sovereignty and the integrity of our territory.

Further Report

PA171629Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 17 Sep (AFP)--The Anastasio Somoza government today accused the governments of Venezuela and Costa Rica of participating in guerrilla operations against Nicaragua. According to the Managua government, Marxist-Leninist terrorist groups infiltrated Nicaragua on Saturday night from Costa Rican territory in the area of the Nicaraguan post of Penas Blancas, and the Venezuelan Air Force, using Canberra jets, strafed the town shortly before 0400 today (1000 GMT).

From another source, it was reported that the Somoza government believes that Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama signed a reported mutual defense pact which is directly detrimental to Nicaraguan interests.

MANAGUA RADIO QUESTIONS COSTA RICAN MOTIVES

PA171942Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0107 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] People of Nicaragua: The offensive campaign mounted by the Costa Ricans is becoming highly suspicious. We say this because we wonder why is Costa Rica reacting as it is. It wants to appear before the eyes of America and the world as a democratic nation and as the victim rather than the aggressor. It is now mobilizing at meteoric speed and is requesting an investigation commission because it feels that it is threatened by Nicaragua, that its sacred territory has been violated, that its airspace and sovereignty have not been respected by Nicaragua. And their fabrications against Nicaragua have gone to such an extent now that the radio audience hears that the Nicaraguan Air Force fired rockets and machinegunned Costa Rican teachers and children who were carrying the torch of independence, describing Nicaragua as a country of gutless savages, an aggressor and an invader.

The truth is that Costa Rica feels guilty. Costa Rica knows fully well what it has been doing against our nation and against Nicaraguans in particular. In allowing its sacred soil to be used for the organization and training of guerrillas that have come from that sister country to sow death and desolation, Costa Rica has become a veritable accomplice of Sandinism and communism. The Costa Ricans know fully well that Nicaragua has never been an aggressor against Costa Rican sovereignty or the sovereignty of any country. The Costa Ricans realize that Nicaragua has only sought their aid in requesting that they ban the training of guerrillas and the launching of aggression from Costa Rican soil.

The evidence is obvious. It is not necessary to be a visionary to see this, nor a magician to guess it. Communist aggression has entered from Costa Rica on various occasions. There was the attack on San Carlos some months ago, the attack on Rivas on another occasion, and most recently, the burning of state property, the death of civilians and the destruction of other property in the most recent action by the invading guerrillas coming from Costa Rica.

For months, the honest press of Nicaragua and the communications media have been a place of love, peace and justice, decency and truth, democracy and freedom. They have been seen as a sanctuary, a place of refuge, the headquarters of the insurgents who have invaded our territory. It has been said to the point of satiety that Costa Rica uses its sacred soil for aggression against its best neighbor.

For years Nicaragua has given only proof of fraternal love to the Costa Ricans. Proof of this are the thousands of Nicaraguans who help them to build their fatherland, the millions which Nicaraguans who visit Costa Rica leave in the national coffers of that brother country. Nevertheless, we Nicaraguans have been attacked without mercy by Costa Rica.

And now, the Costa Rican aggressors are portraying themselves to the world as victims, as a small defenseless nation which is being invaded by the Nicaraguan ogre. Where have the radio stations to the south obtained such mad ideas? How can they launch such attacks, which raise the passions of powerful nations such as Venezuela, Cuba and Panama, which have now placed on Costa Rican territory, where they still boast of having more teachers than soldiers, war material, airplanes and other instruments used only for repelling aggression such as that which Nicaragua is suffering at the hands of the Costa Ricans.

The posture adopted by Costa Rica, that it is the victim of aggression from Nicaragua, is another trick planned by our neighbors to the south, who were good brothers when the entire territory of Guanacaste was retained. That was a very sad occasion for our fatherland, an occasion which the Costa Ricans used to very good advantage.

PRESS SECRETARY SEES CAMPAIGN TO INTERNATIONALIZE CONFLICT

PA152104Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Rafael Cano, secretary of information and press of Nicaragua, has told ACAN-EFE that the people of Nicaragua are very concerned about a campaign to internationalize a conflict which is a domestic affair. Cano referred to radio stations and press agencies which are disseminating alarming news such as the possibility of an invasion by Cuban soldiers, and the presence of Venezuelan and Panamanian planes in San Jose, Costa Rica.

"There is a campaign that is attempting to internationalize a conflict which belongs to Nicaragua alone. We are very concerned. Those news reports are making the people nervous and are upsetting Nicaraguans," Somoza's minister affirmed.

Asked about the general situation in Nicaragua, Cano replied that there has been complete calm in Managua since Monday and that the only problems "are in Esteli and Chinandega."

When he was told that there were press dispatches reporting heavy fighting in Leon and other cities, Cano said that Leon and the other cities "are undergoing a mop-up operation." Cano then returned to the topic on the alleged "insidious campaign of the press against Nicaragua."

GOVERNMENT CLAMPS CENSORSHIP ON LOCAL, FOREIGN NEWSMEN

PA151924Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Report by Radio Reloj correspondent Norma Umana from Managua--live, via telephone]

[Excerpt] We are transmitting directly from Managua where a press bulletin was issued a few minutes ago by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of Nicaragua which reads:

In fulfillment of the martial law which controls the suspension of all constitutional guarantees in the republic, press censorship has been imposed on national information services and press dispatches by foreign correspondents in Nicaragua. To grant the respective facilities both to nationals and foreigners, a special office has been created in the Office of Laws and Public Relations of the National Guard of Nicaragua, to which national and foreign correspondents must come to have their information dispatches duly authorized. In this office they will be taken care of by National Guard Col (Felix) Sanchez and by Col Cristobal (Merlo).

I repeat, censorship has been established for national and foreign correspondents. This has been a report directly from Managua, Nicaragua.

Ham Radios Banned

PA151938Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued on 15 September by the Nicaraguan National Radio and Television Office-- read by announcer]

[Text] The National Radio and Television Office hereby notifies the ham radio operators of the country that according to the decree establishing martial law dated 14 September of this year, and with the support of [words indistinct] of the same law, all ham radio operators must temporarily suspend their transmissions as of today. This office will notify the ham radio operators by means of another communique when they may resume their activities once the crisis [words indistinct] is over, and the date when their regular transmissions can be resumed.

Issued on this 15th day of September 1978.

[Signed] Alberto Luna Solorzano, National Guard lieutenant colonel, national director of radio and television

ARCHBISHOP APPEALS TO CARTER TO SUSPEND MILITARY AID

PA171332Y Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, Sept. 16 (AFP)--President Carter has been asked by a meeting of Catholic bishops to cut off all military aid to the Nicaraguan Government of President Anastasio Somoza. Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Managua told AFP here today.

The archbishop, who publicly asked General Somoza to resign in a pastoral letter three weeks ago, returned here today from a bishop's meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, at which it was agreed to write a letter to President Carter. Msgr. Obando said the letter would "explain, without beating around the bush, what Nicaragua is living through," and would appeal for the United States not to intervene and for all military aid to the Somoza government to be suspended immediately.

EDITOR OF PROGOVERNMENT 'NOVEDADES' SHOT TO DEATH

PA170251Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (AFP)--It was reported today that Guatemalan newsman Mario Jofre Estrada, a resident of Nicaragua for the past 20 years and editor of the progovernment newspaper NOVEDADES, was shot to death. Estrada was riddled with bullets when a group of unidentified men, presumably members of the Nicaraguan security forces, fired on the car in which he was riding early Friday morning. The report was published by NOVEDADES, the only paper being published in Nicaragua following the imposition of censorship. Apparently the government censor withheld the report before releasing it today.

GOVERNMENT URGES GUERRILLAS TO SURRENDER

PA151547Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Attention youths who have been deceived by the communist guerrillas! You who have been coerced into raising your arms against the republic: You are condemned to suffer the worst consequences. This used to be the case with communists who turned themselves over to the authorities, surrendering the equipment provided them by the true instigators behind the guerrilla attacks. The duty of the National Guard is (?to resist you), to force you to fight against superior forces is to condemn you to death. You are ill-informed guerrillas and you are also poorly trained. You will never be able to defeat a professional army which is struggling to defend the fatherland, which knows it is fighting for democracy and freedom.

The guerrillas are being rejected by the people because the guerrillas are fighting to bring us communism, a doctrine which is contrary to our thoughts, the way our parents think and our religion. Turn yourselves in, young guerrillas. Save your lives, think of your parents. You have been deceived by those who are using you as a tool [words indistinct] only for the purpose of enslaving Nicaragua. Surrender, the National Guard of Nicaragua guarantees your personal safety. Think of your parents, think of your own lives. [words indistinct]

COMMANDER CERO SAYS NEW OFFENSIVE TO BE LAUNCHED

PA161650Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Eden Pastora, better known as Commander Cero, has announced that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is preparing itself for a second stage of violence by means of another major offensive against General Somoza's military forces. During an interview held with LA NACION newsman [name indistinct] from somewhere in Nicaragua, he said that the new offensive will be staged simultaneously in various areas such as Rivas, the Ocotal Hills and areas in the vicinity of Chinandega to reinforce the domestic front and undertake a new phase of violence in the cities. Commander Cero also revealed that the Sandinist front and the Group of 12 are in agreement on views and principles regarding the need to set up a national government.

FURTHER REPORTS OF FIGHTING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Managua Calm

PA151601Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua was calm last night except for some explosions of homemade bombs and isolated shots. Citizens returned to their homes before 2000 because of the curfew. The measure has been adopted by the competent authorities to protect the population against possible terrorist attacks. The capital's inhabitants have [words indistinct] orders from the authorities and [words indistinct] and (?life) is unfolding in an atmosphere of peace.

The transportation service continues in [words indistinct]. Buses, taxis, station wagons and other vehicles are making their daily rounds in Managua's streets. All services of community interest continue operating in the capital under the strict surveillance of the police, who are (?covering all fronts). The same can be said about the other cities in the country with the exception of Leon, Chinandega and Esteli, where (?precautionary measures) have been adopted because some pockets of communist guerrilla resistance still remain in certain outlying areas. It will not be long before they are eliminated by the National Guard's fire power. The entire national territory remains (?at peace) under the absolute control of the National Guard.

Paramilitary Reinforce Patrols

PA152035Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2006 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 15 Sep (AFP)--Groups of paramilitary members, dressed in civilian clothing, began reinforcing National Guard patrols in Managua today, while the government once more warned the population not to go out of their homes between 2200 and 0500.

It was also reported that three urban guerrillas were killed in Managua last night as they clashed with police patrols in different parts of the city.

It was verified today that retired Col Fernando Guadalupe Ocon was killed last night by a National Guard patrol and not by young guerrillas.

The colonel, who is very well known in the city, tried to identify himself as he drove around in his car last night, but the patrol machinegunned his car, killing him instantly.

Intense Fighting in Leon

PA151618Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 15 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 15 Sep (AFP)--National Guard troops and Sandinist groups were waging a violent battle this morning to gain control of the city of Leon, in the west. According to telephone reports received shortly after 0400 this morning, heavy fighting was taking place in three guerrilla-controlled areas of the city. Telephone communications were interrupted but were later reestablished at 0730 local time (1330 GMT). At that time, a resident in one of the neighborhoods where fighting is the most intense made contact with the outside world.

According to a war correspondent, the air force was at that time attacking the guerrilla positions after more than 2 hours of intense fighting between the National Guard's infantry divisions and the Sandinists. At 0800 local time, fighting was still going on in Leon, but neither side seemed to be winning, both still maintaining the positions they held at the beginning of the battle.

After 7 days of fighting, Anastasio Somoza's government is still faced with the problem of ousting the Sandinists from three important areas--Leon and Chinandega in the west and Esteli in the north.

There have been rumors of fighting in the city of Guaco, located 100 kms northwest of Managua, but no details are available.

In the south, in the area known as Las Esquinas, the National Guard clashed with several guerrilla groups, which withdrew after hoisting their flag on top of a burned car.

Several bombs exploded during the night in Jinotepe and occasional shots from heavy weapons were heard in several parts of Managua. Several neighborhoods located on the outskirts of Managua remained in darkness and under control of the rebels, who were using low-caliber weapons.

According to reports received by the media from Diriamba, the intensity of the struggle has diminished there. Traffic in that city was gradually returning to normal today. No news has been received from the city of Rivas, in the south, where fighting took place on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meanwhile, according to official reports released this morning, the border with Costa Rica appears calm.

Attacks on Leon, Chinandega

PA160303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0218 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Sep (AFP)--The armed forces of Nicaragua on Friday launched attacks on the cities of Leon and Chinandega, where Sandinist rebels have announced their decision to resist to the last man rather than surrender. Today the air force participated in support of the infantry, which is progressing slowly through the streets of Leon under heavy fire from sharpshooters and guerrillas behind barricades erected at crossroads leading into the city.

The Spanish Consulate was hit by a rocket launched by a fighter-bomber. The plane was apparently aiming at the city's powerplant.

According to telephone reports, hospitals and private clinics in Leon are filled with wounded. The railroad station of Leon and five blocks of houses surrounding the station were destroyed in a huge fire started by the air strikes. The home of Haydee Teran, widow of Carlos Fonseca Amador--founder of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)--was also destroyed by fire. The widow lives in Cuba with her two children.

Leon Jader Aviles, the commander of the city's firemen, has asked for the mediation of the apostolic nuncio, Msgr Gabriel Montalvo, to request that the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza authorize use of his men in combat zones where there are many serious fires.

Three National Guard light tanks this afternoon penetrated rebel positions in the city's downtown area after virtually exhausting their ammunition. The Subtiava neighborhood, occupied by indians, suffered a similar combined attack from infantry and armored vehicles of the Somoza forces. According to witnesses, large numbers of buildings in this neighborhood, as well as in the San Juan, San Felipe and Zaratoza neighborhoods, have been destroyed by mortar attacks. It has also been reported that the churches in San Carlos, Guadalupe, El Calvarito, [words indistinct] where Sandinist sharpshooters had clashed with the army, have been seriously damaged.

In Chinandega, 130 km west of Managua, rebels set fire to the post office building. Government light tanks demolished barricades erected by young guerrillas operating in this sector. This evening the army regained control of San Benito, a Chinandega neighborhood that had been occupied by the Sandinists since last Saturday, shortly after the beginning of the insurrection. The army offensive against the rebels' positions in the city of Chinandega is directed mainly against the San Carlos neighborhood, where the Sandinists have their general headquarters. According to observers the fighting could continue for several days since the insurrectionists have solid support throughout the city.

It has also been announced that the U.S. Embassy here today began the evacuation of North Americans from the cities of Leon and Chinandega.

Situation Reported 'Extremely Difficult'

PA161344Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Report from the Costa Rican border at Penas Blancas by Radio Reloj correspondent--live]

[Excerpt] From interviews held with arriving Nicaraguans, we learn that the situation in Managua continues to be extremely difficult. International news agencies cannot provide information to the outside world.

The shortage of food is becoming alarming, as is the shortage of fuel and other necessities. Parents are doing everything possible to get their underage children out of the city. They expect a decisive Sandinist attack against General Somoza and his National Guard at any time.

We are also informed that in Managua and several other Nichaaguan cities, all boys over 15 years of age are being arrested on the grounds that they are presumably connected with the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Leon Recaptured

PA161913Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1834 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep (AFP)--Nicaraguan national radio confirmed today that the National Guard has recaptured the city of Leon after 3 days of heavy fighting. The news, disseminated on the previous evening, was also confirmed by most newsmen. They were even allowed today to enter Leon with a special permit in order to see for themselves how intense the fighting had been. According to the authorities, the government also has complete control over the city of Masaya.

National Guard Communique

PA160704Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0640 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Communique No 53 issued by National Guard Legal and Public Relations Office on 15 September 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] Nicaragua National Guard general headquarters, Managua, 15 September 1978, communique No 531:

The National Guard Legal and Public Relations Office reports that specially trained antiurban guerrilla units have successfully recovered the city of Leon, thereby bringing tranquillity and peace to the citizens of Leon, who experienced hours of terror at the hands of communist hordes. On reporting this victory to the people, this office wishes to stress to the people the guard's aim of restoring tranquillity and law and order to the nation.

In the city of Esteli the operation launched to dislodge snipers and communist agitators--who caused a great loss of human lives and property through acts of vandalism and terror--was successfully completed. The sector of the city involved in this operation was recovered.

Nicaraguans should be proud of the National Guard because of its spirit of sacrifice to preserve law and order, peace and tranquillity throughout the nation.

[Signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, head of the National Guard Legal and Public Relations office.

Sandinists Capture Penas Blancas

PA171534Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1442 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[War Communique No 9 from the national leadership and general staff of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) to the Nicaraguan people and the world read by unidentified woman directly from the national command and general staff of the FSLN via telephone--live]

[Text] The Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front reports that between 0300 and 0400 today, 17 September 1978, its columns besieged [Asediaron] and seized the Penas Blancas border point.

They took complete control of it despite the fact that in the last few hours it had been reinforced with over 200 National Guard troops, several light tanks and other heavy artillery.

The Sandinist military objective was achieved because the enemy's infantry, motorized and artillery forces, were neutralized and some of them captured. (?Their equipment) will be used to defend the conquered position.

The Somoquist National Guard sustained several casualties and fled in great disorder after the victorious attack by our columns. The squadrons of the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front also blew up some bridges in the area of Las Pitas to block access by enemy reinforcements. The Sandinist army is also in control of a corridor of the inter-American highway at (?La Cama) between Penas Blancas and Rivas.

At this moment two Sandinist columns led by commanders Daniel Ortega, Victor Tirado and Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, are advancing to extend the territory under the control of our forces. The next bulletin will report to you on the number of enemy casualties and the Sandinist guerrillas who were wounded during these actions.

Guard Retakes Border Point

PA172306Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2235 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Penas Blancas is again in the hands of the Nicaraguan National Guard. Some 45 minutes ago, the Sandinist National Liberation Front abandoned the post and the National Guard's light tanks arrived at the Penas Blancas customs house on the border. Five truckloads of soldiers arrived and occupied all the installations. The Nicaraguan airplanes withdrew and there is absolute calm. The Costa Rican civil guard returned some 20 minutes ago to their positions at the customs house and the tourism institute and advanced to within some 50 meters of the border.

HEALTH MINISTRY RECOMMENDS SANITATION MEASURES

PA170458Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0208 GMT 17 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued in Managua on 16 September 1978 by the Nicaraguan Public Health Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] The Public Health Ministry informs all Masaya, Esteli, Matagalpa, Leon and Chinandega residents that in order to prevent epidemics due to contaminated water or foods, the following measures should be observed:

1. Drinking water must be previously boiled [words indistinct] especially water to be consumed by children.
2. All foods must be thoroughly washed and boiled before eating.
3. All non-pasteurized milk, or pasteurized milk lacking proper refrigeration, must be boiled before drinking.
4. All canned foods must be carefully inspected in order to determine that the can is not rusted or swollen and its label must identify it properly. Uneaten food from opened cans must be discarded unless transferred to another container and kept refrigerated.
5. All foods must be kept covered in order to prevent contamination by flies and other insects.

Directors of health centers in the republic are informed that activities continue normally, as well as vaccination, environmental sanitation and malaria control programs and programs for intensive education on health habits and measures.

Managua National District, 16 September 1978

[Signed] Public Health Ministry

CASTRO ADDRESSES SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA

FL151218Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 15 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has made a welcoming speech at the international conference of solidarity with the African and Arab peoples' struggle which inaugurated in the Ethiopian capital. The opening remarks of the important event were made by Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Committee. The conference is being attended by delegates from more than 120 national and international organizations, political parties and liberation movements from 110 countries.

In speaking to the delegates at the event, Fidel delivered a message of militancy and encouragement from the Cuban revolution. Our commander in chief stated that the imperialists and their reactionary servants impugn Cuba's presence in Africa. In this regard, he recalled the words of several African chiefs of state who have said that there is not a single Cuban in Africa who has not been requested by an independent nation exercising its sovereignty and in defense of a just cause. The first secretary of our party reiterated the support for and solidarity of the Cuban revolution with the just struggle of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Palestine, South African, Western Sahara and other peoples fighting for their liberation.

In referring to the three-way talks at Camp David between Carter, As-Sadat and Begin, he said that the talks are a desperate attempt to maintain the diplomacy of successive and partial surrender of the Arab and Palestinian people's rights. He said that the talks between the leaders of the United States, Egypt and Israel are also designed to prevent the Arab countries and their allies from attending the Geneva negotiations.

Later on Fidel pointed out the achievements made by Panama and the Sandinist National Liberation Front in Nicaragua, and he stressed the importance of the United Nations' recognition of the colonial status of Puerto Rico.

The commander in chief referred to the present situation in Ethiopia where the people, led by Chairman Mengistu, have added a determined element to the struggle by the black and Arab countries of Africa. He stressed that the Ethiopian revolution has turned the African continent into a crucial location in which to confront imperialism. He stated that he is sure that the Ethiopian leaders know how to find solutions to their problems which are revolutionary, just and Marxist-Leninist and that they will be able to not only preserve the territorial integrity of the country but also the union of all into a greater Ethiopia which is revolutionary.

In his address to the delegates to the international conference of solidarity with the African and Arab peoples' struggle against imperialism and reactionary forces, Fidel pointed out the importance of unity among the fighting forces and the countries supporting them. He energetically condemned the role played by the Chinese leaders, who deserve to be rejected by the peoples for their support of executioners of the Chilean people, their aggressions against Vietnam, their attacks on Angola and Ethiopia and their secretive and indecent splitist policy.

In making the opening remarks at the conference, Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam pointed out that the Great October Socialist Revolution destroyed the myth of the invincibility of colonialism and imperialism and lit the way for the masses to achieve their true liberation. Mengistu made an extensive analysis of the conditions existing in Ethiopia and stated that the revolution is going towards creating a Marxist-Leninist party and a democratic and people's republic in Ethiopia. In conclusion he stated that the conference of solidarity symbolizes the struggle being waged by the peoples against imperialism and reactionary forces.

Further Report on Speech

FL151812Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has made a speech of greetings at the international conference of solidarity with the African and Arab peoples' struggle against imperialism and reaction being held in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council, made the opening remarks and emphasized its importance for development of the African and Arab peoples' struggle. The maximum leader of the Ethiopian nation expressed his militant solidarity with the conference and stressed that the conference is a symbol of the struggle being waged by the people against imperialism and reaction. He also referred to the ominous history of colonialism and to the role of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the struggle for the liberation of mankind. He asserted that the peoples of Africa and the Middle East are determined to free themselves from their oppressors.

Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro declared in his speech that the problems of Africa and the Middle East have become the center of today's international situation. He pointed out that the conference is being held at a time when the most aggressive forces of imperialism have their greatest concern in Africa and aim to contain the irrepressible advance of the African peoples. Castro recalled how imperialism changed colonial domination to a neocolonial one and continued to exploit the African people. He noted that since the early 1970's the African people have resumed their efforts for their national independence. He recalled the victories that prevented imperialism from delaying the African people's struggle for liberation.

Fidel pointed out that solidarity has possessed special significance in the African and Arab struggles in our times. He stressed that the imperialists and their servants impugn Cuba's presence in Africa, and added: To those who accuse us of stimulating an armed confrontation of the African people against their oppressors we say that Cuba is not opposed to any peaceful solution to the struggle of the African people, essentially those of Zimbabwe and Namibia, for their independence as long as such a solution is a just one and accepted by the legitimate representatives of the people--the Patriotic Front, SWAPO, and the African states that have supported them. Fidel recalled the words of several African chiefs of state who have declared that there is not a single Cuban in Africa who has not been requested by an independent state exercising its sovereignty and to defend a just cause. He reiterated Cuba's support for and solidarity with the just struggle of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Palestine, South African, Western Sahara and other peoples who are struggling for their liberation from the imperialist, Zionist, reactionary and racist yoke.

He described the Camp David tripartite talks between Carter, As-Sadat and Begin as a desperate attempt to maintain the diplomacy of successive and partial surrender of the Arab and Palestinian people's rights and to block the presence of the Arab countries and their allies at the Geneva negotiations. Our commander in chief referred to the situation in Latin America and stressed the achievements made by Panama, the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua and the UN Decolonization Committee in connection with the colonial problem of Puerto Rico.

Fidel reaffirmed the close and inextinguishable alliance between Cuba and the Ethiopian revolution and the conviction that the Ethiopian leaders will find revolutionary, just and Marxist-Leninist solutions to their problems, and that they will succeed in preserving not only the country's territorial integrity but also the unity of all in a great revolutionary Ethiopia.

Our commander in chief emphasized that the revolutionary family is growing year after year, that the balance of forces is changing in favor of the independence of nations and in favor of our struggles. He pointed out: The primary thing is to maintain unity among the fighting forces and the countries that are supporting them. Division is the most important historic weapon which the imperialists have used against the people of Africa and everywhere in the world. He then criticized the infamous role of the Chinese leaders and noted that they deserve to be repudiated by those who are struggling for democracy and national independence of nations because of their sneaky and shameless splittist policy.

Fidel asserted that revolutionary internationalism is a law of our struggle and said: Isolated, we cannot win. The greatest assistance or the simplest popular rebellions strengthen us all because they represent the expression of a new mankind that is struggling for a more just society. We are, Fidel concluded, infinitely more powerful than imperialism and its servants because we are the bearers of social progress and standardbearers of justice. History is on our side. Our scientific and just ideas are invincible.

CASTRO, SPAIN'S SUAREZ HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE 11 SEP

LD151527Y Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 12 Sep 78 pp 3-4 LD

[Unattributed dispatch: "Fidel Castro: 'The King Has Written a Very Important Page in Spain's History'"]

[Text] Havana, 11 September--The president of the Cuban revolution [as published] will make an official visit to Spain. The expected announcement was made at 1700 Havana time by Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez. The press conference, which lasted about 1 hour, took place in a completely informal and unusual atmosphere, as is demonstrated by the fact that it was attended by about 100 journalists and technicians, who took up an area of only a few square meters. As soon as President Castro entered the hall, he broke all usual routine and asked the Spanish and Cuban journalists to gather round him. And that is what happened.

Fidel Castro and Adolfo Suarez found themselves literally besieged by dozens of journalists, eager to hear their impressions. Adolfo Suarez, anticipating the Cuban president's reply, stated that he had had the honor of conveying on the part of His Majesty the King of Spain an invitation for an official visit, the date of which was still to be fixed. President Fidel Castro, he added, has accepted the invitation.

The major said later that his long-sought visit to Spain will take place without the haste of the Spanish prime minister's visit to Havana. It will last at least a week and he will visit Madrid and Galicia.

Fidel Castro pointed out that his visit to Spain has a deep emotional significance for him, bearing in mind that his father was born in Galicia. "Since I was a child," he stated, "I have been very fond of studying Spanish topics and reading Spanish authors, whom I would describe as brilliant."

At the conclusion of the press conference, the Cuban leader repeated the already well-known anecdote that he will ask to vote in the next Spanish election, because he comes from Galicia and should therefore hold dual nationality.

Fidel Castro praised the political process followed by Spain. "The effort made by the king of Spain, as well as that made of Prime Minister Suarez, has been very praiseworthy," he reiterated.

"We will never forget," Fidel Castro continued, "the solidarity of the Spanish Government when, resisting the pressures from the United States, it did not join the blockade decreed against us, despite the political differences which separated us at that time."

"We will always be grateful for this--very particularly now, under the new political circumstances which Spain is experiencing."

The Cuban leader briefly listed the most important aspects of the agreements reached during the round of talks with the Spanish delegation.

In short, they are as follows:

"With respect to the matter of compensation for Spanish citizens whose property was seized in Cuba, the issue has been fully resolved." "We have found," he said, "the right solution."

"We have made a decision on the matter of dual nationality and facilitating the journeys to Spain of those who voluntarily want to go there."

The issue of the two Spanish citizens who were imprisoned in Cuba has also been resolved.

In short, Fidel Castro summed up: "We have nothing left to resolve." "Cuba," he explained, "has asked for nothing in particular in return. The compensation for the Spanish citizens seemed to us completely just. It is a matter of brothers and friends. Our problems were simple and easy."

In a brief statement Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez reiterated his gratitude and his admiration for the Cuban people, and described the atmosphere in which the negotiations had taken place as fraternal, irrespective of each side's ideological convictions.

"We will respond to that friendship," Adolfo Suarez continued, "and in a very special manner, when we have the honor of receiving the president of the Republic of Cuba in Madrid and Galicia."

One of the matters which both leaders had to broach was the situation experienced by former Spanish territories on the African continent. Fidel Castro said that he hoped a satisfactory agreement would be reached to resolve the problems and that Cuba's policy in Africa is one of solidarity with and support for the just liberation movements.

In addition he expressed his hope that any possible dispute over the Canary Islands will be resolved. In this connection, he recalled that a large part of the Spanish colony in Cuba in fact comes from the Canary Islands.

In answer to a question about Spain's possible entry into NATO, Fidel Castro specified that, although this is a matter which is entirely the Spanish Government's concern, Cuba wants an independent and neutral Spain. The military blocs, he said, have become an anachronism.

With respect to the Socialist International's increasing influence in South America, Fidel Castro stated that this was a matter which did not worry him. In the end, the most just idea will prevail, he said.

On several occasions Fidel Castro reiterated his view that Spain is experiencing exceptional historical circumstances and is destined to play a preponderant role in South America and the African countries. We want, he stressed, a Spain which is industrialized and integrated [incardinada] into Europe. He also said that he had been unable to discover shortcomings in the personality of the Spanish prime minister. He is, to quote the Cuban leader, an able and brilliant man.

As far as the king of Spain is concerned, he said that he had written a very important page in our country's history. We are in an excellent position to understand each other and to cooperate. And Spain is the country in Europe which is in the best position to cooperate with the Third World.

After praising Spain's technology and the quality of its industry, the president of the Cuban revolution declined to comment on a question about Eurocommunism, and concluded by congratulating the Spanish delegation on the success of the talks.

Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez' press conference concluded in a similar manner.

Earlier, the foreign ministers of Spain and Cuba, Marcelino Oreja and Isidoro Malimera, signed the economic and technical cooperation agreement between the [line apparently dropped in newspaper]

At the conclusion of Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez' official visit to the Republic of Cuba, of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Information Office has issued the following Spanish-Cuban joint communique:

Answering an invitation made by President of the Council of State and Government of Cuba Fidel Castro Ruz, Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez made an official visit to the Republic of Cuba on 9-10 September 1978.

Prime Minister Suarez traveled to Cuba accompanied by Spanish Foreign Minister Macelino Oreja Aguirre and a high-level delegation.

During their stay in Cuba, Prime Minister Suarez and his delegation received from the Cuban people and leaders a welcome of genuine and sincere cordiality, reflecting the historical and friendly ties existing between the two countries.

Prime Minister Suarez and his delegation laid a floral tribute at the monument to Jose Marti in Revolution Square, opened a Spanish numismatic and artistic exhibition in the numismatic museum of the Bank of Cuba and visited the museum of the City of Havana, as well as the headquarters of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, where they held a fraternal meeting with representatives of the Spanish companies established in Cuba.

Spanish Prime Minister Alfonso Suarez Gonzalez and President of the Council of State and Government of Cuba Fidel Castro Ruz held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and international affairs of common interest which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, with precise ["precisos"--possibly misprint for preciosos--"valuable"] exchanges of views on the development of their respective countries' political processes.

In analyzing the state of bilateral relations and the opportunities for continuing to develop them, both sides observed with satisfaction the results of the work of the Spanish-Cuban Joint Committee, which has been studying the course of economic, commercial and financial exchanges for years, facilitating their uninterrupted expansion with fruitful results.

Both sides ascertained the consolidation of economic, trade and financial relations and showed satisfaction at the opening of negotiations leading to the signing of the new trade agreement between the two countries, which will take place in Havana at the end of the year.

At Cuba's request, the Spanish side confirmed that it is favorably disposed toward extending the present credit facilities as a means of further increasing the role of its industry and technology in Cuban development plans--which will help the Cuban side to continue giving the corresponding Spanish offer priority attention.

The Cuban side reiterated its desire that Spain's possible needs to import sugar should be met by Cuban supplies, as has traditionally been the case. The Spanish side received this request favorably, explaining that Cuban sugar supplies will be given priority insofar as the evolution of the Spanish sugar market permits.

During the visit by President Suarez and his delegation an agreement was signed on scientific and technical collaboration so as to form the foundations and open the prospects of further development of relations in this sphere. The great potential offered by the signing of a cultural and educational agreement between the two countries which is currently the subject of negotiations, taking into account the traditional historical, cultural and language ties between their peoples, was also discussed.

To this end it was agreed to maintain close contacts for the purpose of identifying new tasks providing mutual benefit in the scientific, technical, cultural and educational spheres and also for the purpose of analyzing the best ways for maintaining growth and development in current trade. At a time considered appropriate by the sides working groups will be created for this purpose and delegations will be sent to examine projects and specific measures of mutual interest.

Both sides agreed on a final and complete solution to the demands of Spanish citizens subject to Cuban law and the consequent procedure for the corresponding agreement. The two sides will coordinate facilities for repatriating Spanish families in Cuba and for the reunification of Spanish families who have ties with Cuba and who request this.

In examining the present international situation Presidents Adolfo Suarez and Fidel Castro exchanged opinions on topical world problems, particularly the most important problems relating to Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Near East.

SOVIET DEPUTY CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER ENDS VISIT

FL151942Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1734 GMT 15 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Yuriy G. Mamsurov, USSR deputy minister of civil aviation, has returned to Moscow after holding talks on mutual cooperation in the civil aviation field with Gumersindo Gonzalez Feliu, first vice minister of transportation. The two officials exchanged viewpoints on organizational aspects of mutual interest and examined the development of current and future relations between the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry and Cuban Transportation Ministry. During his stay in our country, Deputy Minister Mamsurov visited an aviation maintenance base in Santiago de Cuba, historic sites and other places of general interest.

(Ramon Olivera Lopez), transportation vice minister for the aviation area; (Cecilio G. Aguilar), director of Cuban Civil Aviation, and (Vladimir Krimenkow), Aeroflot administrator in our country, participated in the talks.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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